



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, December 7, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on President Trump's announcement that the U.S. recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

INTERNATIONAL

Kono expresses concern that Middle East situation may deteriorate

Nikkei and Sankei reported online on remarks by Foreign Minister Kono on the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Nikkei quoted Kono as saying at MOFA this afternoon: "I am concerned that President Trump's announcement may make Middle East peace more difficult or lead to the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East as a whole." Nikkei said Kono did not clarify whether or not he supports President Trump's decision, and said that Japan has no plan to relocate the Japanese Embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He also reportedly stressed: "I welcome President Trump's announcement of his strong commitment to promoting a permanent peace agreement and his support for a resolution of the issue between the two states."

Suga comments on President Trump's announcement on Jerusalem

TV Asahi reported that following the announcement by President Trump that the U.S. recognizes Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told the press this morning: "Japan seeks a resolution of conflict by the two states, Israel and Palestine. It should be resolved through negotiations between the parties concerned." NHK quoted Suga as also saying: "Japan's position is that the issue should be resolved through negotiations by parties concerned based on the past

agreement between them...We are closely monitoring the development with great interest, and we will work closely with relevant nations, including the United States.”

According to TV Asahi, an unnamed GOJ official said that "international balance can't be maintained" and expressed concern that tensions in the Middle East may rise. The official also reportedly said that Japan will not take concerted action with the U.S. on the matter.

The network also said FM Kono is making arrangements to visit Israel later this month and exchange views on the issue of the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem when he meets with Israeli leader Netanyahu.

- [Japanese media reaction to U.S. proclamation of Jerusalem as Israeli capital](#) (Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Nikkei, Sankei)
- [“Japan has no plans to relocate its embassy”: CCS Suga](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion: Recognizing Jerusalem as Israeli capital the U.S.’s “own goal”](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Nations must press China to limit crude oil supplies to North Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: N. Korean fishing boats reaching Japanese shores result of regime’s tyranny](#) (The Mainichi)

Former Chief Strategist Bannon expresses caution about military action against DPRK

NHK reported this morning that former Chief Strategist Steve Bannon met with visiting Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Katsuyuki Kawai in Washington on Wednesday. According to the network, Bannon told Kawai that he is wary of military action against North Korea because if the U.S. decided to take such action, it would result in too many casualties. He also reportedly mentioned that it is possible for the Trump administration to take other measures, such as increasing pressure on North Korea. In addition, the network said Bannon expressed strong caution toward China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative. On the U.S.-Japan relationship, Bannon reportedly said that Prime Minister Abe is the President's "invaluable partner," and confirmed the importance of the two nations working closely to create a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

- [Cartoon:Kim Jong Un](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: The U.S. and DPRK leaders](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Japan bucks trend on nukes](#) (Akahata)

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| ECONOMY |
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- [U.S. corporate tax cut may accelerate U.S.-bound investment by Japanese firms](#) (Nikkei)
- [Experts' views of U.S. taxation reform](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, China businesses agree to cooperate on regional infrastructure](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Business as usual](#) (Akahata)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec 6, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan to provide subsidies for private high school education](#) (Jiji Press)
- [LDP's Kishida launches foreign policy study group](#) (Sankei)
- [What the polls are saying \(Part 2\): LDP popular among students](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)
- [50.5% say women subjected to discrimination at workplace, Cabinet Office poll](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

The fall of sumo grand champion Harumafuji

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on former sumo grand champion Harumafuji, who announced his retirement following allegations that he assaulted a fellow sumo wrestler. The program said the incident exposed the issue of violence in sports as well as how grand champions should maintain their "dignity." The program interviewed several people close to Harumafuji, who spoke highly of the grand champion by saying that as a grand champion, he placed importance on manners and maintained strict control over himself. A commentator said that although violence is unacceptable, Harumafuji probably felt he had a responsibility to educate his fellow sumo wrestlers, especially those from Mongolia, which unfortunately led to violence. The program also reported on the Japan Sumo Association's crisis management capabilities.

- [Cartoon: The Master of Shogi](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

Apparent part from U.S. military aircraft fell on kindergarten in Ginowan, Okinawa

NHK reported at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. today that what appears to be part of a U.S. military aircraft was found on the roof of a kindergarten in Ginowan, Okinawa, this morning. According to Ginowan city, one of the kindergarten staff found a cylindrical object on the roof after hearing a loud noise at about 10:20 a.m. There were no reports of injuries.

The network said the cylindrical object is about 20 cm long and 7 cm in diameter and "U.S." is written on it, adding that the loud noise was heard right after a U.S. military aircraft flew over the kindergarten. The network said the kindergarten is located in a residential area about 300 meters from MCAS Futenma, adding that military aircraft frequently fly over the area as it is near an airstrip. The operator of the kindergarten reportedly told the network: "At the time, the children were playing in the kindergarten yard near the building where the object fell. I thought something like this would happen sooner or later because the kindergarten is on the flight path of U.S. military aircraft, but this is unbelievable."

Meanwhile, the network quoted DM Onodera as telling reporters today: "We don't have the details yet, but we will confirm the facts and make inquiries to the U.S. side since this happened at a kindergarten."

- [Gov't mulls revising National Security Strategy by the end of 2018](#) (Sankei)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Family of woman killed in Okinawa seeks compensation

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report saying that the Naha district court on Wednesday held the first hearing of a damage suit against Kenneth Franklin Shinzato, a former civilian worker at a U.S. base in Okinawa who was sentenced to life imprisonment on Dec. 1 for assaulting and killing a local woman in April 2016. The paper wrote that the family of the victim plans to call on the U.S. and Japanese governments to provide compensation based on the SOFA immediately after the court decides on a compensation order. However, a lawyer who is familiar with the SOFA said that compensation may not be provided because Shinzato was not a direct hire of the U.S. military when he committed the crime.

- [Top Okinawa Marine officer dismisses sexual harassment by subordinate](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Urasoe to accept U.S. military garbage](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

- [U.S. Ambassador expresses condolences to family of victim killed in DUI incident involving U.S. service member](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [U.S. military asks Kantei to resolve garbage disposal issue](#) (Okinawa Times)
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